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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Fifth special session

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 4th MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Wednesday, 18 October 2000, at 3 p.m.

Chairperson: Mr. SIMKHADA (Nepal)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

LETTER DATED 3 OCTOBER 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ALGERIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA ADDRESSED TO THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS (agenda item 3) (continued) (E/CN.4/S-5/2)

1. Mr. LAGOS PIZZATI (El Salvador) said that his delegation welcomed the agreement that had just been concluded between the Israelis and the Palestinians at Sharm el-Sheikh. El Salvador called on the two sides to refrain from acts of violence and provocation and ensure respect for human rights. The Salvadoran people knew from their own experience that respect for human rights was an indispensable precondition for fruitful dialogue and the achievement of peace. His delegation hoped that the Sharm el-Sheikh agreement would lead to a resumption of dialogue and constructive negotiations.

2. Mr. SIDOROV (Russian Federation) said that the immediate challenge was to halt the upsurge of violence and bloodshed and defuse tension in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. His delegation hoped that the Sharm el-Sheikh agreement would help to normalize the situation and safeguard human rights. The Russian Federation had tried to play a constructive role since the very beginning of the crisis, insisting on the need to calm passions and look to the future. The international community should adopt a similar approach.

3. Mr. HUSSAIN (Pakistan) said that the tragic events of the last few weeks had reminded the international community that the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territories was far from satisfactory. They were also a reminder that enduring peace would never be achieved unless violations of fundamental human rights were addressed. Pakistan had steadfastly supported the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and repeatedly called for the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the occupied territories. The repressive actions of the Israeli security forces during the recent disturbances had flagrantly contravened international humanitarian law and violated the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War. They had also jeopardized the entire peace process. The implacable hostility of Israeli extremist elements towards the peace process had also become apparent.

4. Successive peace agreements had promised that the Palestinians would get back most of their land in exchange for peace with Israel, but those promises had not been honoured by the occupying Power. Illegal Israeli settlements had continued to expand. The Palestinians had endured decades of restriction on their freedom of movement. Israel should immediately end all violence against the Palestinian people, as called for by the Security Council resolution 1322 (2000). Pakistan supported the convening of an international inquiry to investigate recent violations of Palestinian rights and bring those responsible to justice. In addition, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights should visit the region and report on their findings. Ultimately, there was no other path to peace except tolerant coexistence.

5. Mr. SKOGMO (Norway) said that Norway deeply regretted the suffering and loss of life that had occurred in the occupied Palestinian territories in the last few weeks and deplored the

indiscriminate use of force by the Israeli defence forces. The latest round of violence was a direct threat to the peace process itself and the stability of the entire region. Although his Government welcomed the Sharm el-Sheikh agreement, it noted with concern that the violence was continuing, and that could only be to the detriment of human rights.

6. Israel had a clear duty to respect international humanitarian law and the Fourth Geneva Convention, which provided for a minimum standard of humanitarian protection in occupied territories. The applicability of the Fourth Geneva Convention to the occupied Palestinian territories had been reaffirmed by the Security Council and the General Assembly.

7. The positive economic and social development of the Palestinian territory was essential for sustainable peace. A healthy economy would enable the Palestinian people to enjoy economic, social and cultural rights. Norway intended to continue its high level of financial commitment to the Palestinian territory with a view to developing local institutions for the realization of those rights. The parties should put a stop to confrontation and continue to cooperate in the spirit of the peace accords. Respect for human rights was indispensable for the achievement of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace.

8. Mr. KIM Song-chol (Observer for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea) said that his delegation was gravely concerned by the serious situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and the indiscriminate use of force by the occupying Power. The use of armed force against innocent civilians had led to massive violations of human rights. Until Israel responded meaningfully to the appeals of the international community regarding respect for Palestinian rights, there was no guarantee that the peace process would resume. His Government reaffirmed its support for the Palestinian people in their struggle to restore their legitimate national rights.

9. Mr. HAMIDON (Observer for Malaysia) said that his delegation endorsed the statements made earlier on behalf of the Group of Asian States and the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC). While appreciating the complexities of the Middle East peace process, particularly the issue of Jerusalem, his delegation urged the Israeli authorities to cease all provocation and acts of violence against civilians. The continuing Israeli military aggression was in clear breach of Security Council resolution 1322 (2000).

10. The most recent report of the Special Rapporteur pursuant to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/2 A (E/CN.4/2000/25) seemed to indicate that the occupying forces had used indiscriminate and excessive force in cases where there had been no threat to their lives. It appeared that deadly force had been used without warning. His delegation noted that the earlier comments by the representative of Israel were not consistent with the Special Rapporteur's findings. The report also made it clear that the Israeli settler population had emerged as a paramilitary force and that collective punishment, the shelling of homes and the destruction of infrastructures, all of which contravened the Fourth Geneva Convention, had continued unabated. As to the proposed international commission of inquiry, considerations of urgency and objectivity were paramount. Justice delayed would be justice denied. Failure to establish an international commission now, when the situation so urgently demanded it, would clearly be a regressive step.

11. Peace could be achieved only when the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination had been recognized and when an independent and sovereign Palestine had been established with Al-Quds (Jerusalem) as its capital.

12. Mr. NGUYEN QUY BINH (Observer for Viet Nam) said that his Government had been deeply shocked by the recent violence in the occupied Palestinian territories and condemned the senseless and unjustified actions of the Israeli security forces. Viet Nam had consistently advocated a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian question. It also supported the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, such as the right to establish an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital and the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homeland. Peace could be established in the region only if the two sides complied with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly and the various international agreements they had signed. Israel should honour its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention and lift the blockade of Palestinian towns and villages, which constituted a collective punishment. Lastly, his delegation supported the establishment of a mechanism for carrying out a speedy and objective inquiry into the tragic events of the last few weeks.

13. Mr. OULD MOHAMED LEMINE (Observer for Mauritania) said that his delegation endorsed the earlier statements made on behalf of the League of Arab States, the Organization of the Islamic Conference and the Group of African States. Measures should to be taken to protect Palestinian civilians from Israeli aggression. The onus was on Israel, as the aggressor, to restore the situation that had existed prior to the upsurge in violence. An international commission of inquiry should be set up to investigate the recent events in the occupied territories. Mauritania believed that peace was a strategic choice and that there could be no peace without recognition of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, which included the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with its capital at Al-Quds. Negotiation remained the most effective means of reducing tension and confrontation and thereby achieving a just and lasting peace.

14. Mr. CAMARA (Observer for Guinea) said that, by endorsing the statements made earlier on behalf of OIC and the Group of African States, his delegation wished to express its concern at the recent violence in the occupied territories, its impact on the peace process and the consequences for stability in the Middle East. The international community should put pressure on Israel to abide by international law and comply with the decisions of the Commission on Human Rights and the relevant Security Council resolutions. His Government called for the convening of an international commission of inquiry, an end to the use of force, a return to dialogue and the establishment of a free and sovereign Palestinian state.

15. Mr. FARRELL (Observer for New Zealand) said that his Government had been shocked and saddened by the events that had taken place in the occupied territories since the end of September and had given $NZ 100,000 to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNWRA) for emergency medical supplies. He called on both sides to exercise restraint and ensure that international human rights standards and obligations were observed. Israelis and Palestinians should also honour the agreement reached by their leaders at the Sharm el-Sheik summit. New Zealand particularly welcomed the proposed development by the United States of a fact-finding committee in consultation with the United Nations. The committee should carry out its work expeditiously, as it was important to

ascertain the truth and for both parties to commit themselves to establishing the mutual trust required to prevent a repetition of the disastrous violence. The parties should commit themselves once again to negotiating a comprehensive settlement to obtain a just and lasting peace in the region.

16. Mr. D'ANGIERI (Observer for Belize), drawing attention to the continued erosion of the human rights of the Palestinians, said that the gravity of recent events had highlighted the urgent need for a clear territorial demarcation establishing an independent, sovereign Palestinian State. Disproportion, particularly the increasing economic disparity between Palestine and Israel, was considered to be a factor that had contributed to the recent uprising. Attempts to redress the economic balance, including economic cooperation and the mutual sharing of the benefits of development, would therefore be conducive to the establishment of a just and lasting peace in the region.

17. Confidence in the region had been shattered following the recent events and stability was at stake, with hard-line attitudes a serious destabilizing influence on the peace process. He supported the suggestion that a mechanism should be established to carry out an objective, independent inquiry into the bloodshed and would also welcome a mechanism to monitor the warning signs of potential conflicts.

18. Mr. WOODHOUSE (United Nations Children's Fund), speaking on behalf of the UNICEF Executive Director, said that UNICEF's work to build trust and encourage dialogue among children and young people of the region, which it had been carrying out since 1993, had received a setback from the recent events, but would continue no matter what happened. More than one quarter of those who had died in the violence were children and adults on all sides had an obligation to keep children and young people out of harm's way. Both parties to the conflict should protect children from violence: Israel should ensure that those under 18 years of age would not be targeted and the Palestinian Authority should take energetic measures to discourage children under 18 from participating in violent activities that placed them at risk. Children were nearly always the most vulnerable and most lasting victims of conflict - their psychological wounds cut very deep - and all adults in the region bore some responsibility for the terrible consequences of the conflict for children. He therefore hoped that, for the sake of the youngest citizens of the region, there would be an immediate end to the hostilities, as agreed at Sharm el-Sheikh, and that a lasting solution to the conflict would be found.

19. Mr. SALLEHUDDIN (Observer for Brunei Darussalam), endorsing the statements made by Malaysia on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) and by Indonesia on behalf of the Asian Group, reaffirmed his country's long-standing support for the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, which could be achieved only by political means through the peace process. The current situation in Palestine was deeply regrettable and restraint should be exercised by both sides. He welcomed the suggestion for the establishment of an international commission of inquiry to look into the recent incidents. He also commended all regional and international efforts to help restore a climate conducive to negotiation and hoped that the agreement reached at Sharm el-Sheikh would help to put the peace process back on track.

20. Mr. NENE (Observer for South Africa) said that his Government was deeply concerned at the serious situation in the Middle East, which, if left unchecked, would represent a threat not

only to peace and security in the Middle East region, but in the world in general. The Israeli army's disproportionate and excessive use of force against the Palestinians was deplorable and he regretted the unacceptable loss of lives, particularly of children, the high incidence of injuries and the extensive material damage. The activities of armed groups might exacerbate the already volatile situation and South Africa called for the immediate and complete cessation of all hostilities with a view to creating a climate conducive to negotiations. His country fully supported all initiatives aimed at bringing peace and stability to the region and welcomed the efforts by the Secretary-General and others in that regard. It was to be hoped that the measures proposed in the agreement reached at Sharm el-Sheikh would help to diffuse tensions and create the necessary conditions for the resumption of the Middle East peace process.

21. Commending the quality of the reports submitted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur, he said that South Africa endorsed the High Commissioner's call for parties to return to the negotiating table as a matter of urgency and for the international community, as well as the parties concerned, to reflect on strategies to promote tolerance and harmony among two kindred peoples. It also agreed with the Special Rapporteur on the urgent need for the adoption of measures to restore confidence in the peace process within a framework of human rights. Lastly, an impartial international inquiry would help prevent a repetition of the recent tragic events and, in that regard, he called for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1322 (2000).

22. Mr. ALFARARGI (Observer for the League of Arab States) said that Israel continued to ignore the internationally recognized rights of the Palestinian people and to try to impose its will through force of arms. In the recent events, it had used heavy artillery against civilians, whose only weapons had been stones, and had killed more than 100 people, many of them children. Israel was violating humanitarian law and international conventions protecting the right to life. It was destroying the infrastructure of the Palestinian economy and undermining the morale of the people and he called upon the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur to visit the Occupied Territory to see the suffering of the Palestinian people at first hand.

23. It was essential to prevent the recent crimes from recurring and to protect the Palestinians until they had established their own independent State. The Commission on Human Rights should closely monitor the human rights situation in the Occupied Territory and establish a fact-finding commission to investigate the recent crimes and bring the perpetrators to justice. In addition, the Conference of the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Convention on Measures to Enforce the Convention in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem, should be reconvened. Israel, for its part, had to commit itself to the agreement reached at Sharm el-Sheikh and create an atmosphere conducive to the resumption of the peace process.

24. Mr. SCHECHLA (Habitat International Coalition) said that Israel's systematic denial of the Palestinians' right to a place to live in peace and dignity - a right that had been dramatically violated in the recent events - lay at the very core of the Palestinian problem. Israel was continuing to demolish the homes of Palestinians and confiscate the land for its own use. The economic costs of that and other human rights violations on the Palestinians were enormous and

Israel should be encouraged to meet its international human rights obligations. International efforts to protect Palestinians from Israel's violations of the right to housing would make a fruitful contribution to regional peace and development.

25. It was now clearer than ever that the establishment of justice and respect for human dignity were prerequisites for the peace process and he therefore supported steps for the immediate correction of the behaviour of the Israeli forces in the Occupied Territory, protection measures on the ground to avoid further assault on the occupied population, the establishment of a permanent international human rights body and of an ombudsman and the immediate establishment of an independent, United Nations-based commission of inquiry to determine accountability for the recent crimes and violations. In addition, the United Nations treaty bodies should be encouraged to consider information within their competence related to the human rights issues arising out of Israel's occupation of Palestine and the thematic rapporteurs should give special consideration to the situation in occupied Palestine, cooperating, as appropriate, on matters of common concern.

26. Although an agreement had been reached at Sharm el-Sheikh on the establishment of a fact-finding mission, it, like Security Council resolution 1322 (2000), offered little assurance that human rights norms would be respected. The establishment of such a mission did not obviate the need for the human rights community to take initiatives to uphold a framework of human rights and humanitarian criteria in the region. He urged States to exercise their responsibility in that regard to avoid a repetition of the current crisis and not fail to take the necessary steps to re-establish the peace process, the very heart of which was human rights.

27. Mr. SAMOURA (African Commission of Health and Human Rights Promoters), speaking on behalf of the Coordination des ONG africaines (CONGAF), said that, although the year 2000 had been proclaimed International Year for the Culture of Peace, fresh attacks were taking place on innocent victims in the occupied Palestinian territories. The sight of Palestinian children being killed was particularly affecting, especially on the eve of the Special Session of the General Assembly for Follow-up to the World Summit for Children in 2001.

28. The member organizations of CONGAF wished to convey the profound indignation of African civil society at the fate of the Palestinian people, who were still victims of Israel's contempt, indifference and denial of justice. The current situation, which had been caused by Israel's occupation and settlement policies, required bold political remedies.

29. He hoped that the special session of the Commission would result in a clear declaration guaranteeing peace and security not only to the Palestinians, but also to the Israelis and other peoples of the region. He requested the establishment of an international commission of inquiry to investigate the serious human rights violations of the last few weeks.

30. Mr. ABDRABBOH (Al-Haq) said that the Palestinians' protests had been met with excessive and indiscriminate force by the Israeli military, which was using sophisticated weapons, in violation of international humanitarian law and the principles of proportionality. Air raids had been carried out and a curfew had been imposed on some villages as a form of

collective punishment, cutting students off from their schools or colleges, the young and elderly from hospital care and workers from their workplaces. The military had also targeted journalists and even ambulance drivers, one of whom had been killed.

31. Mr. Sharon's visit to Al-Haram Al-Sharif was not the only cause of the protests, which were the natural outcome of Israel's policies in the occupied Palestinian territories in general and Jerusalem in particular. Palestinians believed that their human rights situation had in fact deteriorated since the signing of the Oslo agreement.

32. Israel continued to confiscate land, restrict Palestinians' freedom of movement, confiscate the identity papers of Palestinian residents of Jerusalem and demolish their homes and violate Palestinians' economic and social rights.

33. His organization called on Israel to implement the Fourth Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and requested the establishment of an independent international commission of inquiry in accordance with Security Council resolution 1322 (2000).

34. Mr. AYEWOH (Nigeria), speaking on behalf of the African Group, said the Group was deeply concerned about the pernicious cycle of violence in the West Bank and Gaza and the excessive use of force against Palestinians, in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention. Israel must comply with its obligations under that Convention. The African Group requested the High Commissioner for Human Rights and special rapporteurs to visit the territory. It called for a halt to the violence and for an objective independent inquiry to investigate the human rights violations that had occurred. Dialogue would be achieved only if the violence stopped and negotiations began.

35. Mr. PARY (Tupaj Amaru) said that the root of the Arab-Israeli conflict, which had threatened international peace for more than 50 years, was to be found in the still-open wounds of European colonialism. In that sense, those responsible were the Western Powers, which wished to maintain their sway over the region in order to protect their strategic interests. In addition, the international community had never mustered the political will to acknowledge Israel's responsibility for the theft and, in 1969, the conquest of Arabs' ancestral lands. Western democracies applied double standards: they condemned Austria's extreme-right Mr. Haider, but tolerated the extremist policies of Israel's Likud party, led by Mr. Sharon.

36. There would be no peace in the Middle East as long as the Israeli Government continued to deny the Palestinian people their right to self-determination. He called for the establishment of an independent international commission of inquiry into the war crimes and genocide committed by the Israeli military. He also called on the Commission to request the High Commissioner to visit the territories and to set up an emergency fund for the victims of the war.

37. Ms. BANDETTINI DI POGGIO (International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples) said that the agreement that had been reached at Sharm el-Sheikh represented only more signatures, and signatures given under duress, at that. How, in any case, was it possible to speak of a ceasefire when there was only one army involved?

38. It would be vain to hope for any new arguments that might help resolve a conflict that had lasted 52 years. The many resolutions adopted by the United Nations on the subject were well known and the long list testified to the long years that had gone by without result and to the legitimate, and growing, frustration of the Palestinian people. People resorted to violence when their rights were denied, their complaints were ignored and what happened to them was considered to be of no account. Such was the case of the Palestinians, who were demanding only the exercise of their inalienable right to self-determination. It was hard to justify viewing the violence resorted to by victims in the same light as that committed by oppressors.

39. Her organization could not fail to observe that, with the direct or indirect complicity of the United States and other countries, Israel continued to defy international law with impunity and wondered why Israel should be given leeway that the Commission would never have allowed to any other country. The international community as a whole had let the situation go on too long. It was high time to take action such as the establishment of a truly independent, credible, transparent commission of inquiry, set up as proposed by many previous speakers, to report publicly to the Commission. It should receive the full cooperation of both parties to the conflict and its conclusions should, if necessary, form a basis for the prosecution and punishment of those responsible for the recent violence.

40. It was to be hoped that the latest agreement would not become another dead letter, but genuinely enable both peoples to practise and enjoy tolerance, coexistence and mutual respect.

41. Mr. OWONA (International Young Catholic Students) said that, despite the negotiations taking place at Sharm el-Sheikh, it could not be said that ongoing efforts to reach a settlement based on justice and equity had yet borne fruit. In the meantime, Israel persisted in its unjustified intransigence and use of violence in the occupied territories, in disregard of international human rights instruments and the calls made by the United Nations and the world community. The tragic history of the Jews did not mean that they could subject another people in Palestine to the horrors they themselves had endured in the past. The majority of people on all sides accepted that Israel's existence was an irrevocable reality, but they also recognized the need for an independent Palestinian State. Neither Israel nor Palestine could exist independently of the other and a means of peaceful coexistence must be found.

42. Conditions for true peace could not be established in a climate of political self-interest, discrimination, hatred induced on religious and other grounds and the undue influence of outside forces. On the other hand, the virtues of forgiveness, tolerance and willingness to live together were shared by all parties to the conflict - Palestinians, Israelis and Arabs; Jews, Muslims and Christians.

43. The Commission and all Member States of the United Nations should take steps with a view to an immediate ceasefire, Israel's complete withdrawal from all occupied Palestinian territory, the observance by Israel of all relevant international instruments, an end to its systematic violation of the Palestinians' rights and the adoption of the measures advocated by previous speakers, including the establishment of a commission of inquiry and a visit by the High Commissioner to the occupied territories with a view to reporting to the Commission at its next session. At the same time, Israel's sponsors should urge that country to abandon its intransigence, which only served as an obstacle to tolerance and peace. Religious leaders in

Israel and Palestine should oppose fanaticism and promote mutual understanding. And political leaders on both sides who did not sincerely desire peace and justice for the entire region should hand over the reins to the young, who had suffered most from the conflict and were more aware than anyone else of the need for lasting peace.

44. Mr. DAHLEH (World Federation of Democratic Youth) said that none of the summit meetings involving Israel and the PLO, including the latest meeting at Sharm el-Sheikh, had resulted in an end to Israel's violation of the Palestinians' basic rights. The Commission should therefore continue its monitoring role, including the establishment of a commission of inquiry. It should be noted that the latest summit meeting had not dealt with the situation of Palestinians living in Israel, who would continue to suffer the day-to-day violation of their basic rights. They had never been officially represented in any negotiations and their core concerns had again been overlooked.

45. He referred to the state of danger, mentioned by previous speakers, in which the Palestinian citizens of Israel had been living, including armed attacks by Israeli soldiers and police, as well as attacks on Palestinian Arabs and their property by Jewish citizens. He also noted that in dealing with cases relating to the unrest the Israeli courts had been disproportionately hard on Palestinians. Since the agreement reached at Sharm el-Sheikh would not put an end to the harassment of Palestinians living in Israel, the Commission should condemn such actions, as well as those responsible for them, and establish the proposed international commission of inquiry.

46. Mr. MASSON (World Union for Progressive Judaism) drew the Commission's attention to the grave upsurge in anti-Semitism, including genocidal calls by Islamic leaders, directly related to current events in the Middle East. Calls for a jihad had been made even outside the Palais des Nations. Synagogues and other Jewish targets in France had been attacked and similar attacks had taken place in Germany, the United Kingdom and other European countries. In the Middle East itself, the head of the Hezbollah and the highest-ranking Muslim religious official in Egypt had both called for militant action against the "enemy". Various Islamic leaders elsewhere had likewise supported the call for a jihad and fanatical calls to kill Jews had been broadcast by the Palestinian Authority's official television station. It was noticeable that, whereas Jewish religious and educational establishments throughout Europe needed security surveillance for years, no Muslim institutions in Western Europe had ever required such protection. It was surely time for Muslim leaders everywhere to speak out against genocidal incitement, which contravened all international instruments.

47. It was hard for Jews to understand how they could be regarded as an "occupying Power" in a place which had been their ancestral homeland before the first Arab-Islamic advance into that region. Arguments about history, however, as well as national and international vested interests, should not be allowed to obstruct current efforts aimed at lasting peace and coexistence - the true desire of most peoples, Hebrew and Arab alike.

48. Mr. LEVY (Observer for Israel), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that he wondered whether those representatives of Arab States who had called for special rapporteurs and a commission of inquiry to be sent to Israel would be prepared to accept such an inquiry into their own human rights records. In that connection, reports by Amnesty International and other

independent groups on those States' treatment of their own citizens were available and worthy of study. Likewise available at the current session, and on the Internet, were pictures revealing that the recent unrest, in which many civilians had regrettably been hurt, had been deliberately incited and that many of the participating youths had not been spontaneous stone-throwers, but had been armed and trained by adults, including the Tanzim group.

49. Amnesty International's report on Lebanese human rights violations was particularly length. In that regard, Israel had withdrawn unilaterally from Lebanon in compliance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978), but the Lebanese authorities had made no commensurate moves to exercise their authority - for example, by preventing cross-border raids.

50. As a result of the Sharm el-Sheikh agreement, the Israeli and Palestinian parties had met to discuss security arrangements in order to end the unrest and it was hoped that all concerned would henceforth opt for negotiation and reject violence, including rioting of the sort that he was sure no Government anywhere would tolerate in its own territory.

51. Mr. NASR (Lebanon), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that Lebanon had never held prisoners, except for certain persons detained in occupied Lebanese territory, and had never set up camps or fired missiles at civilians, ambulances or premises. Lebanon was attending the Commission's current session not to lecture on human rights, but to work for their implementation.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.